

From: Russ Wright
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/29/01 12:03pm
Subject: My thoughts on the US vs. Microsoft Case

I am a developer who for the past ten years has benefited financially from developing applications using Microsoft products. My income came mostly from developing software solutions using Microsoft development tools. I have however experienced many frustrations when attempting to give my customers what I consider the best solution and not just the Microsoft solution.

I would dearly love to be able to suggest to my customers solutions that fulfill the users needs from Open Source or Microsoft. However, the largest obstacle preventing me from doing so is kept secret by Microsoft. Many of the projects I worked on, experienced limitations when we were unable to "look under the hood" and understand how a particular protocol or file format was created. To be more precise, network protocols, and the layout of Microsoft's Office files are a secret. If these protocols and file formats were published, then I would be able to suggest the best solution, whether it was Microsoft or another company's product. I ask that Microsoft be forced to publish these protocols with all detail.

I also see that the new .Net technology touted by Microsoft has the potential to monopolize large portions of the web. Users who do not want or have Microsoft products will be cut off from using portions of the web built on .Net technology. I ask the court to prevent this extension of the Microsoft monopoly by forcing microsoft to disclose and publish all protocols and formats to be used with this technology so that the monopoly will not extend further into the web.

On a separate note, I understand that Microsoft may be forced to give hardware and software for use in underprivileged inner city schools. I believe that this would only benefit Microsoft and enable the extension of their monopoly. It will benefit Microsoft of another generation of students grow up to think that the only solution is Microsoft. I suggest instead that a trust be set up from the fines that Microsoft must pay and that the monies be used to purchase the best solution for the need. Again, the point being to meet the needs of the consumer and not limit their choices.

Regards
Russell Wright